

HELPFUL RESOURCES

JOB RESOURCES

▶ CTWORKS CAREER CENTERS

A regional Career Center is located in New Haven to provide guidance and services to those seeking employment. 203-867-4030

▶ CTJOBCENTRAL

An online job bank where individuals can search for jobs as well as upload their resume and access various employment-related information. 1-866-268-6206 or www.jobcentral.org/ct



FOR SENIORS

▶ CHOICES PROGRAM

The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older. Currently, CHOICES is assisting seniors who need help enrolling in Medicare Part D. 1-800-994-9422

▶ MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS (MSP)

Individuals who are enrolled in both Medicare and ConnPACE are no longer able to access ConnPACE benefits. Instead, those eligible for Medicare should apply to the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) in order to receive prescription drug assistance. There is no asset test for this program, and the income limits are the same as those for ConnPACE.

MSP offers eligible seniors savings of at least \$1,000 per year in Medicare Part B premiums. The Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidy would lower prescription co-payments to \$6.30 or less. For information visit www.ct.gov/dss/medicaresavingsprograms or call Infoline at 211, or CHOICES at 1-800-994-9422.



ENERGY ASSISTANCE & CONSERVATION

▶ SAVE ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Choose Your Electric Supplier—The rate you pay for the generation portion of your electric bill may be lowered by 10 percent. 1-877-947-3873 or www.ctenergyinfo.com

Home Energy Solutions—This program helps customers reduce their bills by making their homes more energy-efficient. 1-877-947-3873

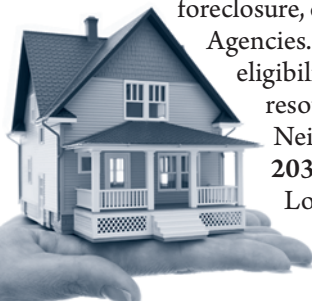
Helping With Payments—Programs are available to help customers reduce or eliminate their past-due balances. 1-800-286-2828



RESOURCES FOR FORECLOSURE RELIEF

▶ THE FIRST STEP IN CONNECTICUT

If you're having trouble paying your mortgage, or are facing delinquency or foreclosure, contact one of Connecticut's Housing Counseling Agencies. Each agency is prepared to give advice, screen your eligibility for potential assistance programs and offer other resources to help you keep your home. Call Neighborhood Housing Services of New Haven: 203-562-0598; or Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund: 203-624-7406.



Dear Neighbor:

These are unprecedented times: families are struggling, yet gridlock in Washington ensures that Congress gets nothing done. It's a different story in Connecticut. We put partisan differences aside and passed an historic Jobs Bill. The legislation will help create thousands of jobs by reducing red tape, cutting taxes for small businesses and investing in training and education.

Together, we're working to strengthen Connecticut's economy, balance the budget and show Washington that cooperation doesn't have to be a bad word.

This newsletter details some of the initiatives we've taken to help our economy and improve your quality of life. Please don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Toni Harp
State Senator

Stay Informed in a "Green" Way



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Fighting for Jobs & the Economy State Senator Toni Harp

Legislative Office Building, Room 2700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
www.SenatorHarp.cga.ct.gov
1-800-842-1420

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WINTER 2011



STATE SENATOR **Toni Harp**

Serving New Haven & West Haven

WINTER 2011

LEGISLATIVE SUCCESS

Advancing the American Dream

The concept of a new law I supported is simple: all state residents who are graduates of Connecticut high schools should be able to attend community colleges and state universities at the in-state tuition rate regardless of their immigration status. A component of the law requires that these students sign an affidavit vowing to legalize their immigration status. This law would help higher education become accessible for deserving, hard-working students who are pursuing the American dream and ensure that these young adults don't suffer for a decision their parents made very long ago.



An Equal Education for All

Recognizing that every student has a right to an equal education, the legislature passed a new law that focuses on school readiness—particularly in



underachieving districts—by calling for new math and reading programs specific to students in Pre-K through 4th grade. The law also permits underperforming school districts to expand the length of each school day and to increase the overall number of school days as desired. By focusing on the early years, and by freeing-up local school boards to fine-tune their school day and year, we hope to close student achievement gaps.

Fighting Against Domestic Violence

This year we passed a domestic violence law that strengthens a victim's access to restraining and protective orders, improves information sharing about domestic violence incidents, and expands the ability of victims who have experienced a pattern of threatening or stalking to request a restraining order. We also fixed a contradiction in state law that exempted people who are dating from arrest when a domestic violence crime is committed. Connecticut is making it easier for victims to protect themselves and making it harder for perpetrators to commit such crimes.

GROWING JOBS

Jobs are the number one issue facing Connecticut today. We took action in the legislature this year to put more people back to work and get our economy growing again. Unlike the partisan gridlock in Washington, both parties came together in Hartford to pass a Jobs Bill of common-sense improvements. We focused on small businesses, **cut the business entity tax in half** and **streamlined state regulations**. Other highlights of the bill include:



- ▶ **Helping small businesses with hiring**—We established a monthly hiring tax credit that increases when businesses hire unemployed, disabled or veteran workers. We also made it easier for businesses to hire new workers for on-the-job training.
- ▶ **Investing in start-ups**—At a time when many banks aren't lending, we invested in new start-up companies by building business incubators and expanding the angel investor tax credit.
- ▶ **Building a workforce of the future**—We will recruit students for vo-tech, agri-science and tech education by promoting their benefits with middle-school parents and local boards of education. We'll also establish manufacturing technology programs at three community colleges.
- ▶ **Investing in infrastructure**—We paved the way for economic development zones at Connecticut's general aviation airports, allocated funds for shovel-ready bridge projects and passed major reforms to lower energy costs and increase energy efficiency.

In separate legislation, we rebuilt the UConn Health Center, attracting bioscience leader Jackson Laboratories to build a \$1.1 billion research facility nearby. This will create 900 construction positions and up to 6,000 long-term jobs.

The national economy remains tough, but we took big steps this year to get Connecticut growing again.

Combating Child Prostitution

It is estimated that 300,000 children in the U.S. are at risk each year for commercial sexual exploitation. At least 52 victims have been identified in Connecticut; there are likely many more. We passed a new law this year requiring the Dept. of Children and Families to conduct child abuse investigations of children aged 16–17 who are arrested on prostitution charges. Police officers must report such arrests within 12 hours, and file written reports within 48 hours.

FOR OUR STATE & OUR COMMUNITY

Making Cuts While Protecting Municipal Aid

Connecticut's two-year budget includes more than \$1 billion in spending cuts and \$1.6 billion in labor concessions from state employees. It doesn't rely on borrowing or fiscal gimmicks to fund operating expenses, it fully funds the state's pension obligations and it remains under the state spending cap. At the same time, the budget protects state levels of municipal aid, which helps towns and cities avoid raising local property taxes.

As a result, I've ensured that **New Haven** and **West Haven** receive their fair share of state funding for education, roads and much more.

Continuing My Support For Our Community

Besides this year's successful, balanced budget process it was gratifying to have participated in these local projects, among others:

- ▶ Helped direct state support for the Farnham Neighborhood House and its summer camp.
- ▶ Outspoken defense to maintain operations at the New Haven Juvenile Detention Center.
- ▶ Helped launch new Web site about the Connecticut Freedom Trail.
- ▶ Successfully secured state funding for housing assistance in New Haven and new firefighting equipment in West Haven.



Streamlining for a More Efficient Government

We pursued the goal of making our state government leaner and more efficient by consolidating and reorganizing our state agencies. One example is combining the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Public Utility Control into a single Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. We also took the step of eliminating the boards of trustees for each state university and community college and replaced them with a single, new Board of Regents. The result is less cost, centralized oversight and better state budgeting.

Portraits of Homelessness Displayed at the Capitol

I joined New Haven homeless outreach workers Ron Dunhill and Matt Abbott and Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness Executive Director Carol Walter in the Legislative Office Building concourse where the photography exhibit 'Portraits of Homelessness in Connecticut' was on display this past March. The photos were taken in New Haven by Ron and Matt.

